

# 2024 ECONOMIC REPORT

## ST. LOUIS REGION



The St. Louis Region is comprised of five counties and is located in the east central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities, including Arnold, Washington, St. Charles, St. Peters, Florissant, O'Fallon, Chesterfield, and the City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Region workforce had more than 1,055,600 employees in 2023, making up 35 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2023, 50.9 percent of the workforce was female and 49.1 percent was male, while the Missouri average was 50.7 percent females and 49.3 percent male workers in the workforce. The regional average unemployment rate in 2023 was 2.9 percent, compared to 3.0 percent for Missouri and 3.6 percent for the nation.

The workforce is getting older in the St. Louis Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 24.0 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier. It was 23.6 percent for Missouri and 24.0 percent for the nation.

For the region, 23.8 percent of the workforce was non-white and 3.7 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 17.5 percent non-white and 4.8 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the St. Louis Region, 8.6 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.0 percent and the U.S. was at 23.5 percent.

### Workforce Demographics

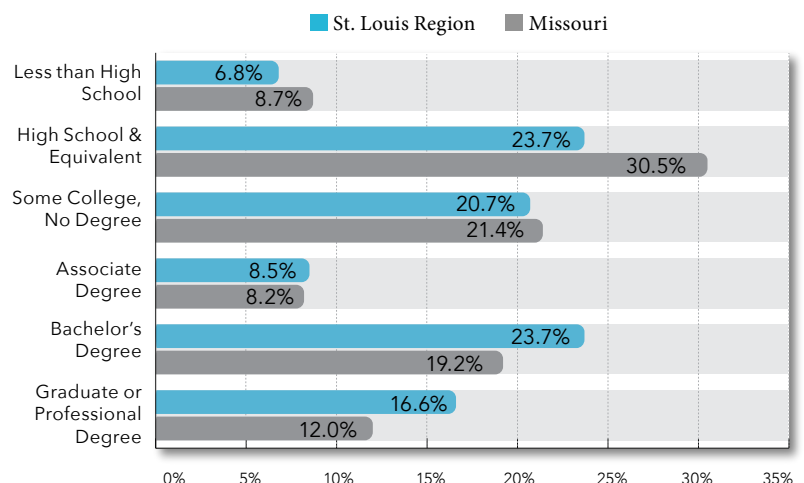
	St. Louis Region	Missouri	United States
<b>Average Monthly Employment in 2023</b>	1,055,649	2,993,587	161,037,000
<b>Average Unemployment Rate in 2023</b>	2.9%	3.0%	3.6%
<b>Male</b>	49.1%	49.3%	51.3%
<b>Female</b>	50.9%	50.7%	48.7%
<b>Non-White</b>	23.8%	17.5%	24.6%
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	3.7%	4.8%	17.7%
<b>Ages 55 and Older</b>	24.0%	23.6%	24.0%
<b>With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)</b>	10.2%	12.3%	10.5%
<b>Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)</b>	9.3%	12.3%	11.7%
<b>Language other than English (Ages 18-64)</b>	8.6%	7.0%	23.5%
<b>Education of Associate Degree or Higher (25 years &amp; Older)</b>	48.8%	39.4%	43.1%
<b>Veterans (Age 18-64)</b>	3.9%	4.7%	4.3%

SOURCES: QWI 2023 Q2; PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. CENSUS 2022 ACS 5 YEARS DATA, LAUS 2023 DATA

The St. Louis Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state, but closely matched to the nation. For the St. Louis Region, 10.2 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.5 percent in the U.S.

Educational attainment rates for the St. Louis Region are greater than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. About 49 percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, had an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and 43 percent for the nation. About 6.8 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

### Educational Attainment



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2022, 5 YEAR ESTIMATES

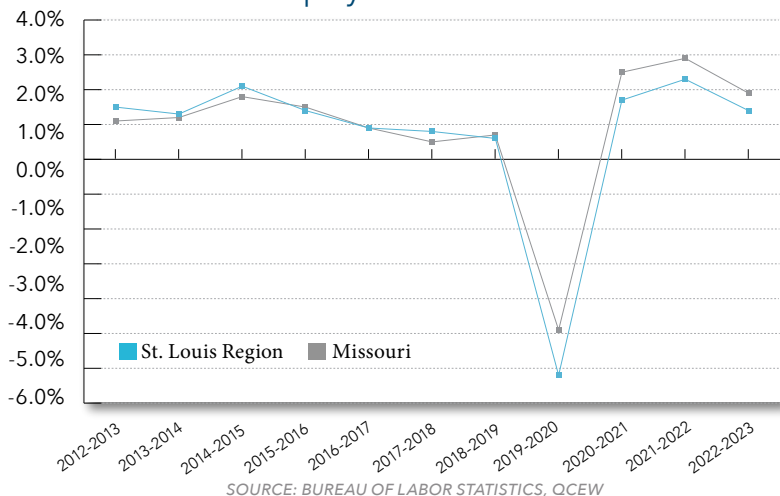
**1,055,600**  
**EMPLOYEES**  
**35%**  
**OF MISSOURI'S**  
**EMPLOYMENT**

# ST. LOUIS REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The St. Louis Region averaged over 1,146,300 jobs in 2023. The region gained 24,489 jobs from 2019 to 2023 and increased 1.4 percent from 2022 to 2023. Missouri employment increased by 1.9 percent in 2023. From 2019 to 2023, the St. Louis Region averaged 0.4 percent compound annual growth for an overall increase of 2.2 percent. During that same period (2019-2023), Missouri's compound annual employment gain was 0.5 percent for an overall gain of 2.4 percent.

St. Louis Employment Annual Growth Rate



*Health Care and Social Assistance* was the largest employing industry in the St. Louis Region in 2023, with employment of over 191,100. *Retail Trade* was the second largest industry despite declining at an average rate of 0.2 percent a year since 2019. *Accommodation and Food Services* lost over 4,425 jobs in 2023 when compared to 2019.

*Manufacturing* grew at a compound annualized rate of 0.4 percent. The industry sectors with the largest increase in employment were *Health Care and Social Assistance* and *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*, with an increase of over 8,000 and 6,800 jobs, respectively at a rate of 0.86 and 1.9 percent compounded annually from 2019 to 2023.

Some industry sectors in the St. Louis Region lost employment between 2019 and 2023, including *Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services*; *Retail Trade*; *Accommodation and Food Services*; and *Management of Companies and Enterprises*.

St. Louis Region Top Employing Industries

	Employment 2019	Employment 2023	Net Change	2019- 2023 CAGR	2022 Annual Wages
Health Care and Social Assistance	183,129	191,180	8,051	0.86%	\$63,528
Retail Trade	106,427	105,526	-901	-0.2%	\$42,516
Accommodation and Food Services	104,630	100,205	-4,425	-0.9%	\$28,284
Manufacturing	96,619	98,515	1,896	0.4%	\$87,012
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	81,003	80,410	-593	-0.1%	\$59,544
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	72,598	79,474	6,876	1.8%	\$99,852
Educational Services	77,405	78,891	1,486	0.4%	\$59,604
Finance and Insurance	64,724	67,870	3,146	1.0%	\$101,100
Construction	57,755	62,186	4,431	1.5%	\$76,092
Wholesale Trade	55,175	58,394	3,219	1.1%	\$94,164
Transportation and Warehousing	37,512	40,894	3,382	1.7%	\$56,292
Management of Companies and Enterprises	42,209	40,386	-1,823	-0.9%	\$116,796

SOURCES: LEHD QWI, 2019-2023 QUARTER 3 DATA, LEHD QWI 2022 ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR WAGE.  
ALL OWNERSHIP

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The St. Louis Region has higher concentrations in *Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services*; *Management of Companies and Enterprises*; *Chemical Manufacturing*; and *Hospitals*.



## COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS

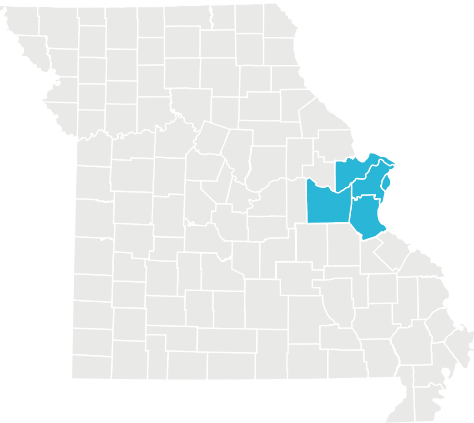
2023 St. Louis Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services	8,755	2.6
Management of Companies and Enterprises	36,618	2.1
Chemical Manufacturing	11,881	1.9
Hospitals	62,593	1.7
Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	3,541	1.5
Machinery Manufacturing	11,870	1.5
Printing and Related Support Activities	3,890	1.5
Social Assistance	43,478	1.4
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities	10,150	1.4
Educational Services	29,540	1.4
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	23,628	1.3
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	31,283	1.3
Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions	1,569	1.3
Telecommunications	5,779	1.3
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related Industries	4,520	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS  
OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES, 2023

# ST. LOUIS REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the St. Louis Region from 2022-2032 will be in the *Hospitals; Ambulatory Health Care Services; Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries; Warehousing and Storage; and Food Services and Drinking Places*.



St. Louis Largest Growth Industries 2022-2032

	Employment 2022	Employment 2032	Change 2022-2032 Numeric	Change 2022-2032 Percent
Hospitals	68,984	89,414	20,430	29.6%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	48,044	54,218	6,174	12.9%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	11,411	15,827	4,416	38.7%
Warehousing and Storage	9,387	12,960	3,573	38.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	82,300	85,655	3,355	4.1%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	36,412	39,765	3,353	9.2%
Real Estate	13,110	16,284	3,174	24.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	36,979	39,864	2,885	7.8%
Administrative and Support Services	60,657	63,531	2,874	4.7%
General Merchandise Retailers	20,297	22,980	2,683	13.2%

SOURCE: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONS PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. The current projections cycle projected industry and occupation employment from 2022-2032. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**NOW** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Home Health and Personal Care Aides; Stockers and Order Fillers; and Cashiers. Locker Room, Coatroom, and Dressing Room Attendants; Amusement and Recreation Attendants; and Home Health and Personal Care Aides* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

**NEXT** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Cooks, Restaurant; Nursing Assistants; and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Respiratory Therapists; Diagnostic Medical Sonographers; and Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

**LATER** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Accountants and Auditors* are projected to have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners; Medical and Health Services Managers; and Personal Financial Advisors* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

St. Louis Region Fastest Growing Occupations



SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032

NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR MAY 2023- APRIL 2024 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

# ST. LOUIS REGION

## ST. LOUIS REGION LONG-TERM OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS BY TOP OPENINGS

OCCUPATION TITLE	2022 Estimated Employment	2032 Projected Employment	Annual Growth Openings	Annual Exits	Annual Transfers	Annual Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW OCCUPATIONS</b>							
Home Health and Personal Care Aides ★	38,516	44,550	603	3,323	2,771	<b>6,697</b>	\$24,960
Stockers and Order Fillers	22,142	25,266	312	1,475	2,321	<b>4,108</b>	\$37,044
Cashiers	20,913	20,036	-88	1,969	1,984	<b>3,865</b>	\$29,827
Retail Salespersons ★	23,018	22,821	-20	1,504	1,814	<b>3,298</b>	\$31,854
Waiters and Waitresses ★	14,855	15,167	31	1,291	1,814	<b>3,136</b>	\$35,447
<b>NEXT OCCUPATIONS</b>							
Cooks, Restaurant	11,891	14,974	308	916	1,095	<b>2,319</b>	\$35,317
Nursing Assistants	10,652	12,219	157	724	895	<b>1,776</b>	\$37,743
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers ★	14,026	14,877	85	654	847	<b>1,586</b>	\$52,704
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	8,226	8,944	72	432	822	<b>1,326</b>	\$36,901
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General ★	11,111	12,206	110	514	532	<b>1,156</b>	\$48,357
<b>LATER OCCUPATIONS</b>							
General and Operations Managers ★	37,165	38,746	158	945	2,039	<b>3,142</b>	\$82,950
Registered Nurses ★	33,599	41,435	784	1,246	772	<b>2,802</b>	\$81,238
Accountants and Auditors ★	12,245	12,680	44	385	564	<b>993</b>	\$77,654
Software Developers ★	10,842	12,957	212	204	426	<b>842</b>	\$109,318
Project Management Specialists ★	9,547	10,069	52	224	452	<b>728</b>	\$67,061

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032



DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR MAY 2023- APRIL 2024 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 by Lightcast™ for the St. Louis Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses; Retail Salespersons; Software Developers; Customer Service Representatives; and First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers* had a high number of job postings in the region.

OCCUPATION TITLE	ONLINE JOB POSTINGS
<b>NOW OCCUPATIONS</b>	
Retail Salespersons	7,270
Customer Service Representatives	4,870
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	3,530
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	3,520
Janitors & Cleaners	2,980
<b>NEXT OCCUPATIONS</b>	
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	4,470
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,280
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	3,840
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	3,430
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	3,040
<b>LATER OCCUPATIONS</b>	
Registered Nurses	24,170
Software Developers	5,820
Computer Occupations, All Other	4,460
General & Operations Managers	3,470
Medical & Health Services Managers	3,130

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2023 - APRIL 30, 2024